

J. D. FISKE'S PAW.
He Rakes in Another Dramatic Company.
A CHARGE OF BLACKMAIL.
J. D. Fiske is rapidly extending himself to the various theatrical companies that visit Fresno. Mr. Fiske, or rather Fiske, out of the generosity of his heart sends a constable at his own expense to the box office of the rival theater to see that the ticket seller does not get away with any of the money.

The result of the attachments that he has levied on the baggage and scenery of several visiting companies lately will be that no company will dare to play in any of the fifty or sixty theaters that Fiske claims as belonging to his empire, or that if they do they will not come to Fresno, which is notoriously known as the residence of John D. Fiske, formerly of Brockton, Massachusetts.

When the Los Angeles troupe arrived from Los Angeles at noon yesterday Fiske attached the baggage and scenery of the company. His claim was for \$100 rental, alleged to be for one night's use of the Santa Rosa Theater. The constable who had the baggage and scenery attached to it, and the company did not get a dollar for their really meritorious performance.

But they took the worth of their money out of Fiske's hands. He occupied a conspicuous seat, and every actor, from the star to the least, assistant deputy and even the janitor, had a seat in the audience. The audience enjoyed the plays more than they did the play.

Arnold, "Hans the Boatman," remarked to his faithful dog, "Fido," that Fido attach you because he was afraid of the seat of his pants. His but, he'd have to eat his pants standing for a week afterwards.

William Cook, arrested for stealing a calf from J. P. Stevens, near Raymond, was convicted of the charge by a jury before Judge Campbell yesterday.

CARELESS OFFICIALS.
Some of Them Severely Scolded by the Grand Jury.
THE ADMINISTRATOR'S BOOKS.
The Grand Jury presented a report yesterday as follows:
Fresno, Cal., February 15th.

We, the Grand Jury, empaneled by your honorable court on the 30th day of December, 1889, reconvened pursuant to adjournment on the 30th day of February, 1890, held open our proceedings as follows, to wit:

TEN INDEBTEDNESS.
We have found that true bills of indictment, against several persons, have been returned, and the remainder of said bills are herewith presented to you.

DISEASED MILK.
A Family in General Adulthood Poisoned by Using It.
A few days ago a child belonging to Mrs. Sackville, who resides in the Central addition, was taken seriously ill. The mother called in Dr. Mason, who pronounced it blood poisoning, produced by drinking the milk of a diseased cow.

THE COUNTING EXCURSIONISTS.
Messrs. Maxey, Cole and Clark, the committee appointed to provide horses and carriages for the accommodation of the counting excursionists on next Wednesday, report having secured outside help, and are now waiting for the counting excursionists.

A Year for Stealing Sacks.
Justice Hagan has imposed a sentence upon Charles M. Davis that will have the effect of curing him of the awkward habit of stealing grain sacks. Davis sold 250 sacks to a junk dealer in this city, and the dealer took them to Captain Muller and offered them for sale.

BASEBALL.
Manager Young to Organize a Central California League.
The prospects are very favorable that Fresno will have a baseball club, and that Central California will have a league of its own.

PREPARE FOR REST.
The Money Getter Should Take Time to Learn How to Be a Wise Spender.
There is a time in men's lives when they need to learn how to work; there is a time for some men when they need to learn how to stop working; and at least how to find employment in other than their usual money making occupations.

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MAXEY & NORTH, LANDS, Loans and Insurance.
Special Attention given to Raisin, Orange, Olive, Fig and Orchard Lands. Large tracts subdivided. Investments Carefully made for non-residents. Loans negotiated on agricultural lands. Taxes rendered and paid for non-residents. Rents Collected.

No. 172.
160 Acres near Fowler, with water right, for 3 1/2 per cent less than adjoining lands have sold for. Terms easy.

No. 201.
First-class improved colony lot, including tracts, sweat-boxes, poultry, cow, bees, and all farming implements. Price low. Terms easy.

No. 106.
Forty acres in Washington Colony; 12 acres raisin vines, 1 year old; 15 acres alfalfa, fenced; 13 acres leveled and settled; house of seven rooms, pantry and bath; two bored wells; barn 32x54. Price \$8000. Terms, one-half cash, balance in one and two years.

No. 37.
Forty acres in Washington Colony; 32 acres in raisin grapes; good house, barn and out-houses; horses, cow and all farming implements go with the place. Price low; terms easy.

No. 73.
City property. To parties who will obligate themselves to build we have vacant lots in almost any residence portion of the city to be sold on long time, without any cash payment.

No. 153.
Eighty acres partially improved near Fowler for \$60 per acre, including water right.

No. 101.
A first-class bargain—Sixty acres one mile south of Malaga; price low; terms easy.

MAXEY & NORTH, LANDS, Loans and Insurance.

The interests of the people are above the interests of any one man, however good or great that man may be.

There are 4000 Americans in Berlin, and still the American flag is excluded from the German Empire.

The New York World estimates that it cost Mr. Rice, the noted New York politician, \$50,000 to become a Senator elect from Ohio.

Who is "Irregular" of the Expositor? If he is not ashamed of himself let him reveal his identity, so that the people may worship the colossal liar of the century.

South the property-owners of Fresno wish to have the city excluded from the irrigation district, after its organization, the law provides the means whereby such a result may be accomplished.

Foreman's circus has been sold to an English syndicate. All eyes are now turned upon Barnum and Buffalo Bill to learn if possible which is to become the "only and original" American showman.

The United States Senate is getting ready to recognize Brazil. On Thursday last it passed a resolution unanimously congratulating Brazil upon having adopted a republican form of government.

In San Diego the ladies take a hand in public improvement. They have a Ladies' Annex to the Chamber of Commerce, and this organization has just undertaken the improvement of a tennis park in the city.

The Sanger Herald says that all the large land-owners oppose the proposed irrigation district. It might have added that all the riparian claimants, all the water monopolists and all the purchaseable newspapers in the county are also opposing the district.

The Grand Jury has filed another section of its report and adjourned until May. If it had continued its investigations until all matters demanding attention had been properly settled, the jury would probably not have gotten through before May.

All who wish to have a word to say for or against the proposed irrigation district may have reasonable space, free of charge, in The Republican in which to present their views to the public, but all such communications must be over the writer's own name.

The Superintendent of Streets thinks all streets will be in good condition where grading has been ordered before the contractors finally turn them over to the city. It also seems reasonably certain that property owners will have little or no cash left when they pay the bills.

Massachusetts people are talking of fitting out a train of thirty or forty cars, to be filled with the manufactured products of that state, and to be used as a traveling exhibit after the style of "California on Wheels." The object will be to gain trade and not population.

Mexico has decided to admit American pork into that country without the collection of burdensome import taxes. This will be a great boon to hog raisers in the southwestern states, especially those of Kansas. They can now feed their cheap corn to their hogs with a prospect of getting fair prices for both corn and hogs.

The canon plan of choosing postmasters is gradually acquiring quite a substantial foothold. Congressman Kennedy of Ohio has directed that causes of Republican vote be held at three points in his district, where a multiplicity of postmaster candidates threaten embarrassment. Here is an idea for aspirants for the Fresno postoffice.

In last evening's issue of our twilight contemporary appeared an effusion, presumably from Colonel Crucker, or one of owners of the Laguna de Tache grant, arguing against the formation of an irrigation district. Our twilight contemporary has not the courage to stand in with its friends in an honest, open and straightforward manner, but lends its columns to the enemies of our country.

There are tricks in all trades, so the old saying goes, but a young couple in Indiana have recently been working a new dodge. They went from county to county getting married on an average twice a day. The groom gave the minister a \$20 counterfeit bill in each case, requesting him to take out a fee of \$5 or \$10, the change returned or course being clear profit to the speculating couple.

Every irrigator who has ever had trouble in getting water should be in favor of the district. Every owner of stock in a canal company ought to favor the district. Every owner of land who wants it irrigated should be heartily in favor of the district. And no one who is in favor of the continued progress of our city and the county can afford to oppose the district.

The gentlemen won a substantial victory over Mormonism in the city election at Salt Lake on Monday. For the first time in the history of the city the Mormons were beaten, and their defeat was simply a rout. The election was held under the provisions of the Edmunds law, and it is to be hoped that the result will be the quick and effective wiping out of polygamy in the whole Territory, of which Salt Lake City is the seat of government.

It is a fact perhaps not generally known that ten years ago Calvin S. Brown, the New Yorker recently elected to the United States Senate by the boudle Legislature of Ohio, tossed up a nickel to decide whether he or his partner should join the Democratic party for the purpose of getting business for the firm. It may therefore be truthfully said that Brown's whole political career has been one of coin. He started with coin as the means of determining the initial step, and has not hesitated to use coin whenever occasion required since. He is a Senator to-day through the all-powerful influence of coin.

WHY HE IS SAD.

The editor of the Selma Enterprise is a deity, or at least has been, in the employ of the County Assessor. He is therefore expected to stand in against any and all attempts to curtail county expenses. He is doing his best. But under the continued demands of The Republican for a topping off of unnecessary expenses, the Board of Supervisors have found it absolutely necessary to begin hedging. The salary of the County Assessor has been reduced about \$100 per month, and ought to be brought down at least \$100 more, and the fancy part of the salaries heretofore paid to deputy assessors has also been abolished, and this year they are to be paid only for work actually performed. The time for its performance being properly specified. We are not surprised that the deputies who have heretofore enjoyed these fat jobs are kicking. They were expecting big, but bread and butter with the proper amount of meat and potatoes will have to answer this time. The Supervisors are to be congratulated upon their timely action, and The Republican takes this opportunity to recognize a service on their part for which the people as a whole will respect them.

The editor of the Enterprise sees disaster swooping down upon the whole county because of this action on the part of the Supervisors. He has a terrible nightmare. It is caused by the loss of 50 per cent of his expected salary as deputy assessor. He is laboring under the delusion that this loss of salary on his part will be followed by a like reduction upon all the citizens of the county. Wonder if the several other deputies are bewailing their misfortune in like manner? In order that our readers may understand the disinterested solicitude of the editor of the Enterprise for the dear people in this matter, let us hear from him on his own alleged point of observation, we herewith reproduce his leading editorial of Tuesday morning.

Under the heading of "False Economy" he says: "The Board of Supervisors of this county have cut down the limit for the assessment of the county nearly one-half. This allows the field deputies about \$100 per month for two months. Most people familiar with the work to be done think that the work cannot be done in the time allowed by the Board. The largest part of the poll tax and the tax on personal property is collected in the latter part of the season and if the latter end of the season is shortened up the poll tax and personal property tax will come up short. This will shorten up the school term and the children of the state would have badly if the same policy were pursued in other counties. This is not the worst feature of this false economy. Mr. Hutchinson will find it difficult to secure the services of competent men to do the detail work of the office. No man competent to assess Fresno City or the town of Selma will care to sacrifice even a very poor business for the sake of earning \$100 a month for the term of two months. Only for the loyalty that the present deputies bear Mr. Hutchinson, all would seek a more lucrative job for March and April. There will be a falling off of about \$500,000 in the assessment roll and a corresponding increase of the tax rate because of the necessary amount of personal property missed when real estate is assessed from the reap instead of the personal statements of the taxpayers."

SHOWING THEIR HAND.

That there was some kind of a job in the proposed formation of a gigantic irrigation district between Kings and the San Joaquin rivers some people profess to believe when the matter first came to be talked about. After the Selma people had taken decided steps to form a district, including only such country as was naturally tributary to Selma, somebody suggested the organization of one district, which should include all the irrigable land between the two rivers. The advocates of the Selma district did not take up with the idea at once, but when such well-known gentlemen as Hon. J. P. Vincent, H. B. Carlson, J. M. Martin, Alex. Gordon, William Helm, W. M. Williams, A. M. Clark, W. V. Phillips, W. H. Cline, Dr. Howell, W. V. Shipp, and more than 100 other equally good citizens, pledged their support to the gentlemen in charge of the organization of the Selma district, the idea of the one great district proposed. All the above gentlemen, and hundreds of others, are earnestly supporting the big district enterprise, and it now looks as though the idea, which probably originated as a scheme to defeat any and all districts between the two great rivers, will sweep onward with an irresistible force that will bury the schemers under an irrigation district, the largest and grandest in the world.

There can no longer be any doubt that there is a deep laid plot to defeat the organization of the district. The riparian claimants are opposed to it, because the district law provides an easy and effective way of disposing of riparian claims. Water monopolists are opposed to it because private rights are condemned and taken for public use. Every land owner is equally entitled to the use of water for irrigation and is under no obligation to pay an annual assessment of 62½ cents per acre to ditch companies—and a bonus of \$200 on each 160 acres of land for the privilege of paying the 62½ cent annual assessment. This \$200 bonus is what the water monopolists are loth to give up. The water monopolists and riparian claimants have joined hands to beat the district, and the Fresno Expositor is either ignorantly or knowingly trying to help them do it. Friends of the district are warned in time, however, and by presenting a united front can effect its organization.

Idaho and Wyoming are both seeking admission as states, and indications are favorable for the passage of a bill by Congress authorizing the organization of state governments in both territories. Wonderful progress has been made in the development of the great northwest during the past few years, and the admission of the two Dakotas, Montana and Washington has exercised great influence in furthering the claims of Idaho, Wyoming and even Utah to statehood. Mormonism is the only barrier that can now be successfully urged against Utah and Idaho, in both of which territories the church influence is very strong. But genuine influence having decisively demonstrated its ability to whip the church in its strongest position, Salt Lake City,

THE LABOR PROBLEM.

During certain seasons of the year, says the California Fruit Grower, large numbers of laborers are employed in the orchards and vineyards of California. For such purposes the Chinaman has been largely used, but the stringent laws which have been passed and which will more than likely be supplemented by others, are rapidly having an effect upon this class of labor. The decrease in number is already very noticeable. It is true that we do not want the Chinaman, but his place must be filled satisfactorily and the quicker they adapt themselves to methods which will admit of dispensing with the Chinese altogether, the better we will be off. The most desirable laborers in the world are furnished by a contented class, who own their own homes and a small patch of ground, upon which their families can live year after year without fear of immediate want from sickness or misfortune of any kind. If we ever have satisfactory labor on this coast it will come from this class; but it is useless for us to hope or expect that white men such as we wish to employ will put up with any such quarters, treatment or domestic arrangements as are made for Chinamen and the roving class of white laborers which are employed. If we want good, steady white men to work for us, we must at least treat them as human beings by supplying them with a decent place to live, and with the ordinary comforts of life. The plan of building tidy cottages for orchard and vineyard laborers has been tried in a few instances, and with the very best results. The percentage of white farm labor that can be depended upon is smaller in California than in most any other state, and this is due to the fact that we have treated men who were used to homes and respect, as if this was a half-civilized rather than an enlightened, progressive state. Instead of furnishing a man a bed to sleep on, a fire if need be, to warm by, and good hearty meals, he has been cooly invited to prepare such meals as he could scrape together, and then to roll himself in a blanket, of his own furnishing, and spend the night under a tree in frontier fashion. In many instances barns have been furnished laborers to sleep in, and in some few instances lodging-houses have been built in which banks, or long, shallow boxes, are fastened up against the wall in steamboat fashion. The sooner we make up our minds to treat laborers right, the sooner will we be independent of the enervating Chinaman. The employing of girls in the vineyards last year proved quite a success, and there is no reason why this should not be continued from year to year, as it is an easy and healthy work, to which no serious objection can be raised. The picking up of large numbers of miscellaneous boys from the cities to work in orchards and vineyards in past seasons can scarcely be said to have been a success, owing to the fact that these boys regard such employment more as a game, big game, than as a serious manual problem. They eat all that they can, have no work as possible, and such work as is done is often of such a careless nature that there is more injury done than the benefit derived. Of course, there are exceptions, and industrious boys are found who like the work in the orchards and are willing and industrious. The periodical negro agitation is a source of some amusement to those who are thoroughly familiar with the negro race. The labor problem is really a serious one and should receive the earnest consideration of all who are engaged in horticultural pursuits.

THE FRESHMAN AT WORK.

The Freshman's petition for the formation of the Fresno Irrigation District is being published in the Fresno Expositor. The petition will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration on March 31. There will probably be a strong fight made against the scheme at that time. Some of Fresno City's capitalists, whose interests lie entirely within the limits of that city are very bitterly opposed to the district—Selma Irrigator.

How does the irrigator know that any of Fresno City's capitalists are bitterly opposed to the district? Will it please name some of those capitalists? The editor of the Irrigator has taken his cue from the Expositor and began to slide down on the wrong side of the question. We feel very sorry for the editor of the Irrigator. His better judgment would lead him to heartily oppose the cause of the people, but unfortunately he is under obligations to his friends. Some of those friends are not friendly to public interests, especially when it comes to the question of forming the irrigation district. We shall now await the arrival of the Madera Mercury with more than ordinary interest. The triple alliance is against public interest, but the triple alliance is not afraid to offer battle to the combination single-handed. We are right, and we would rather be right and champion the cause of the people than to be the king-pin in the greatest newspaper combination ever organized. Opponents of the district may be able to influence the triple alliance to work against the district, but they cannot influence voters enough to defeat it.

TYPE-SETTING BY MACHINERY seems to have been successfully accomplished at last. The last issue of the Scientific American contains a description of the Thorne type-setting machine, which does the work of four ordinary compositors at an expense less than the wages now paid one. The cost of type-setting has been and now is the most burdensome expense under which daily newspapers labor. It costs a paper like The Republican an average of \$25 per day for type-setting alone, or \$8112 a year, which of course is only about one-fourth of the whole expense necessary to conduct such a journal. But if one type-setting machine can do the labor of four men, at an expense less than 25 per cent of what is now paid, there is every reason to believe that publishers of daily papers will not be slow to avail themselves of such improved facilities.

THE NEW YORK STAR is trying very hard to manufacture political capital for its party out of the World's Fair. It is maliciously charging the Republican Legislature of New York and the Republican majority in Congress with being opposed to holding the fair in New York City. The Star's assertions are not only groundless, but are also idiotic. Division of sentiment between legislators as to whether New York, Washington, Chicago or St. Louis should have the fair is not upon political lines. Each man is for his favorite city first, and for the one with the most bustle at the critical time.

THE scheme to establish a lottery in North Dakota collapsed on Monday, by friends of the measure voting to postpone action on it indefinitely. It is now alleged that citizens who wished to have the state spared the odium of legalizing this means of robbery bribed friends of the scheme to defeat it. This is the first time we have ever heard of bribing legislators to do their duty, although it has been insinuated that some of California's noble law-makers demanded a bribe for passing irrigation measures a few years ago.

RECKLESS STREET WORK.

There has been a studied or careless method of turning over to the city such streets as have been ordered graded, by contract, that does not reflect credit either upon contractors or supervising officials. The property-owners of this city have been assessed exorbitant prices for the purpose of grading public streets, and contractors have done the work in such a manner as to secure their money, not caring, apparently, whether streets were left in better or worse condition than when they began the work of grading. Take H street, for instance, north of Mariposa street, for a distance of four blocks. Will any sane man contend that the street has been graded according to contract? Take K street, for a distance of two blocks north of Fresno street. Has the Superintendent of Streets or one of his deputies accepted that grading as properly done? If so the official whose business it is to examine and report on such work should be compelled to grade the street as called for in the original contract. By whose authority have stumps of trees been left in sidewalks where grading has been accepted and paid for? Who gave contractors permission to use 2x4 and 2x6 redwood plank for curbing instead of the 3x12 plank called for in the specifications contained in all contracts for said curbing? These are all questions asked by property-owners who are compelled to pay for that which they have not received. Sidewalks have been made twelve feet wide in some places instead of fourteen feet. Street corners where streets ordered graded intersected others not yet ordered graded have been left in almost impassable condition, as at the intersection of M and Fresno. Where such large amounts are paid for grading a street as was the case on M street, property-owners have a right to expect that contractors will try to improve the condition of the street throughout the entire distance covered by the contract. There are many places where the earth has settled below the edges of the curbing, showing that the work has been neglected. There has been too much hurry and rush from one street to another, and either the Street Superintendent or his deputies have neglected to exercise the authority vested in them. Several streets have not yet been accepted, and the contractors should be made to come up to the spirit as well as the letter of the contracts. It may seem like locking the door after the horse is gone, but there will be other grading to be done next season, and if an example is made at this late day it will probably accomplish much good in future operations.

TIME TO TAKE A REST.

The city council would do well to discontinue all street grading for the present. There has been a rush of this kind of work during the past few months, and it has proven a very heavy burden upon property-owners. Many of them have suffered in silence for fear of being classed with the unprogressive few who are donated as misbegotten alibris. But the time has arrived when this paper believes it to be a duty to speak out in behalf of people who are too timid to speak for themselves. So long as property-owners could pay up without being forced to suffer hardship or sacrifice their property interests, The Republican was in favor of continuing the improvements. But we believe the limit has been reached in some instances already, and rather than see a debt added upon an honest, hard-working man, which he is unable to meet without sacrificing a portion of the lot or lots upon which he lives and is trying to improve and beautify for home, we would rather see all street grading discontinued for a season. The cost of surveying and grading streets under present conditions is expensive, and we believe, needlessly so. To discontinue all further improvements of outside streets for the present would afford property-owners an opportunity to recover somewhat from the embarrassment untold by reason of having had to meet exorbitant rates, county and city taxes in addition to the assessments for street improvements. It will also afford the City Trustees an opportunity to improve upon methods now practiced in the letting of contracts and the supervision of work being done. Citizens will also be afforded an opportunity to buy redwood curbing—which they are not permitted to do now—and thus do their own work if they so desire. There are other reasons why no more street grading contracts should be awarded for the present, but we believe that the City Trustees are awake to the real condition of affairs as they now stand.

Great interest is being shown all over the state in the future movements of the Union Pacific Railroad, which is undoubtedly seeking a direct line from Salt Lake City to Southern California. Even Stockton people are interested, and one of the newspaper publishers of there wonders if a branch of the road will pass through that city in the near future. If Stockton people will wake up and make it an object for the road to go there it will go. And the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe will go also, and the San Joaquin Valley road, too. But, so long as that city continues to pursue the policy of the past quarter of a century, she need have no fear of ever being struck by railroad lightning.

Just before Mr. Reed was elected Speaker of the House, Roger T. Mills, the "Texas Terrorist," outlined the policy of the Democratic minority as follows: "We do not propose that the Republican majority shall pass a single measure without our consent. In other words, we propose to exercise control of the House just as much as though we were still in the majority, because we know that our minority is strong enough to make us the virtual rulers." Mr. Mills and his supporters made a desperate effort to carry out their program, but they went down before Mr. Reed's firm and logical rulings like shipwreck before a twenty-foot sledge.

An immense photo bonding machine has been completed at Hamilton, Ohio, for the government and will be shipped to the Mare Island navy yard at once. The weight of the machine is 200 tons, and it will take four flat cars specially prepared to transport it to this coast. The Mare Island yard will soon be the best equipped navy yard owned by the Government, and it ought to be. If there is to be but one yard on the Pacific it ought to be able to turn out work as rapidly as any two yards on the Atlantic coast, where there are several.

HARBOR DEFENSES.

Recently an Oakland Journal in speaking of harbor defenses complimented the Republican Senator from this state in the following manner. While the ideas of the Senator are worthy the same consideration that we would accord to those of any of his colleagues, The Journal does not see any reason for laying special stress upon the idea of protecting our harbors first and preparing for offensive warfare afterwards simply because Senator Stanford happens to think that line of procedure proper. The journal referred to says: "Senator Stanford has given another proof of that eminent business ability and clear common sense so characteristic of him. In discussing Secretary Tracy's plan for increasing our navy by the construction of a heavy line-of-battle ships, Mr. Stanford called attention to the fact that the matter of prime importance is the defense of our seaports and harbors. He favors the building of a class of vessels especially adapted to that purpose, reinforced by as many fast cruisers as may be needed to make war on the commerce of any nation with which we may have trouble. There is a great deal of reason in this argument. As Senator Stanford says, a line-of-battle ship might sink a ship of similar size belonging to the enemy, or the two might sink each other, but that would do very little toward the settlement of any great question at issue, besides, which we are not likely to have any great difficulty with the five or six great nations that are able to send ships to blockade our ports, and even if we should it will be necessary only to protect our harbors."

That is the keynote of the whole question. In any foreign war that can be imagined, with any first-class power, the United States would be called upon to do nothing more than act on the defensive, so far as actual fighting would be concerned. It is not possible to conceive of such a war as to make it proper or expedient for the United States to attempt to blockade the ports of Great Britain, or France, or Italy, or Russia. We may stand strictly upon the defensive, and to do this we need harbor defenses much more than 10,000 ton fighting ships.

Out of the discussion on naval matters there will surely be evolved some harmonious system by means of which the United States will be enabled to resume her rightful place among the great powers of the earth; but in the meantime to build a great navy, the vast importance of defending our own harbors must not be overlooked, and the course, of such far-seeing and prudent men as Senator Stanford should be carefully followed by the Navy Department and Congress.

MODERN WAR MACHINES.

"What next?" asks the San Francisco Report, in speaking of modern weapons on warfare. An air-rifle that discharges 600 shots, without ammunition and consequently without fire, noise or smoke is the latest invention; and, as the French have it, the Germans are doing some very hard thinking on the subject, as well they may. It is quite possible that an improvement upon the air gun may be the future weapon. Its adoption would revolutionize warfare even more thoroughly than the new smokeless powder is promising to do. Imagine the situation. There would be entire absence of smoke, noise or fire. Marksmen could lie in cover and kill with absolute impunity except from random shots. It would be impossible to detect whence a death-dealing shower was coming, unless those delivering it could be seen. Then the army would need no ammunition wagons or costly and risky magazines. Little bullets only, that could be carried around and loaded like so many beans, would be all the ordinance stores for the infantry. The air rifle of the battle field would be the magazine. All of which reminds us that the American army and militia is getting far behind the world in its weapons as it is in its maneuvers. There is, for example, hardly a formation that will be made at the Presidio on Washington's birthday, except from column into line and line into column, that would be of any use whatever on a modern battle field in opposition to regular troops.

Another United States District Court should be provided for in California. The population of our state is increasing very rapidly, especially in the great San Joaquin valley, and when Fresno people have any business before a United States Court they are now compelled to go to San Francisco, over 200 miles to the northward, or to Los Angeles, over 250 miles south. Kern, Tulare, Merced and Mariposa county people are similarly situated, and these four counties ought to be included in a judicial district with Fresno. Congressman Vandever promised to give this matter his attention at this session of Congress, but in his idiotic effort to have the United States gobbled up Lower California he has forgotten existing conditions in the district he now represents. The Republican party will reward him this fall by giving him a much needed rest.

As the January number of the North American Review is published the beginning of the Gladstone-Blaine discussion on Free Trade vs. Protection. It is a veritable battle of the giants. In the February number of the same magazine, Roger T. Mills republishes the cause of free trade and attacks Mr. Blaine's position with great vigor. It reminds one of the spectacle of a giant worrying a bull. We predict that two years from now Mr. Mills will be declaiming on the beauties of free trade, but at the same time declaring with equal vigor that while free trade is a good thing, neither he nor the Democratic party is in favor of it.

Property suitable for business purposes is looking up a little in Fresno. Prices are universally higher than a year ago, and sales are frequent. The Hewitt lots in block seventy, half a block north from Fresno street, for \$, were sold yesterday for \$14,000. Seven thousand dollars apiece for inside twenty-five foot lots is a good figure, but there are plenty of people who believe they are worth that price and even more.

FIRST manufacturing industries are drifting westward with the population. The Grant Locomotive Works of New Jersey are to be moved bodily to a suburb of Chicago, where they will occupy a full section of land. It is in time that San Francisco capital was beginning to engage in something besides mining stocks, grain dealing and other kindred forms of gambling. De Young, with his energy, and Young Mr. Hearst, with his father's money should, with the all-powerful aid of the Chronicle and Examiner, begin to boom manufacturing interests a little on the Pacific Coast. As representative newspaper men, and molders of public opinion, they are ten years behind the head of the procession.

POLITICAL OUTRAGES.

Many tales of hardship and suffering have reached civilization and been put into print from the political prisoners doomed to exile in Siberia by the Russian Government. For centuries past no nation of Western Europe has felt called upon to inquire into anything connected with the internal affairs of the Czar's Government. But during the last half dozen years an interest in humanity at home and abroad on the part of the common people has forced more than one government to take notice of oppression being practiced by a friendly neighbor government upon a class or race of people. The interference of Russia in behalf of the Christian population under Turkish rule is an invitation to other powers to take a peck behind the scenes in Russian political affairs. Quite recently rumors of inhuman outrages upon men and women by prison officials in Siberia have been brought to the notice of humanitarians, and as some of these stories are vouched for by men of national standing, there is every reason to believe that the situation of the Russian Government will soon be officially called to the notice by a nation not to be moved into silence by five times the military strength or power of Russia. The public press of the United States has taken the matter in hand already, and public opinion bids fair to soon arouse our government to a sense of duty it owes to common humanity throughout the world. A simple protest from the United States would not go unheeded even by the autocratic Czar. In speaking of the latest outrage the Sacramento Record-Union says: "It appears to be well established that the story of the late cruelties upon Siberian political convicts is true. Mr. Kennan has proved himself to be a cautious and fair-minded man, and one who has thoroughly probed the whole prison system of Russia. He assures us that he has in his possession irrefragable proofs that the tale of the massacre of convicts near Kara recently is true. A high-spirited and virtuous woman, one of a noble family, a revolutionist but not a terrorist, who had been exiled for the crime of free speech, was approached by a director of the prison with insulting propositions. She promptly struck the brute in the face, and for that was stripped and flogged in the presence of the entire colony of convicts. The woman then committed suicide to end her sorrows. The men thereupon arose—they would not have been deserving the name of men had they not—and the troops were commanded to fire upon them. Such as were not shot down were tried up and flogged, and at latest accounts the punishment was proceeding. Mr. Kennan believes the whole story, and, as stated, he has proofs of it as well as satisfy any one of his truth, but to disclose the names of his witnesses would simply expose them to the peril of the most awful punishment. If the world had any reason to doubt the story of Slupsk and the revelations of escaped prisoners, it has not those of Kennan, a disinterested witness and a humane man. His recitals have stirred with indignation and humane sympathy the blood of civilization all over the world, save in official circles of Russia."

At the request of the committee of gentlemen who have in charge the matter of presenting the petition to the Board of Supervisors, that Fresno Irrigation District be organized, every publisher within the proposed district, with the exception of the Expositor, agreed not to publish any communications either for or against the district, unless the writers name appeared with the article. The request was one against which no objection could be urged, yet the publisher of the Expositor alone refuses to accede to it. And herein he has shown a decided lack of good judgment. Why, we may ask, should any honest man refuse to sign his name to an opinion he may entertain? Honest people respect the opinions of others, even though they are satisfied they are wrong. To continue his fire from ambush is for the Expositor to invite the vengeance of the people.

On the 18th instant Ira G. Hoyt, Superintendent of Public Instruction, apportioned \$2,172,132.78 to the various counties of the state for public school purposes. The basis of apportionment was \$7.89 per census child, and this gives Fresno county \$60,787.93 for 6337 children. Seven counties receive more money than Fresno, each having a greater number of children, to-wit: San Francisco, 60,912 children; Los Angeles, 27,799; Alameda, 21,991; Santa Clara, 11,853; Sonoma, 8257; San Diego, 8218; Sacramento, 7417. Fresno county ought to step up another notch when the census is taken this year.

Suppose that the Supreme Court should decide to enforce its riparian decisions against the ditch companies of Fresno, and order the headgates shut down? The Governor would have to enforce the decision, and could do it, and where would come of those opponents of the proposed district find themselves in their fancied security? Would there be any quarreling among people who have bought water rights? The people have the opportunity to settle all questions affecting irrigation, to harmonize all interests at one stroke, in the organization of the district. Will they do it?

Prices, apples and raisins are in better demand at higher prices in New York than at any time for several months past. It pays to send only first-class fruit to market where it is to be shipped across the continent, and we trust that Fresno fruit-pickers will not be less careful in grading in future than they have been in the past. A grade of goods once established needs little advertising to create a demand.

RIPIAN claims will not stand against an irrigation district, because the Wright law provides a way to get rid of them. No more litigation from that quarter after the Fresno District is formed.

WHERE WILL IT END?

Free raw materials are persistently demanded by some of the most arrogant and selfish woolen and hardware manufacturers. They want wool, coal and iron ore admitted duty free, that they may more easily compete with foreign manufacturers. Upon the surface, and from the standpoint of one engaged in manufacturing, the demand appears reasonable. But when we dredge to the bottom the question presents a very different appearance. Suppose we grant free wool to the manufacturer, have we then any right to tax woolen fabrics used by the tailor in the manufacture of clothing? If we allow the manufacturer of pig iron to import iron ore and coal duty free can we refuse the plumber his gas and water pipe, the carpenter his nails and the blacksmith his horseshoes and bar iron? If wool-growers in the United States are entitled to no protection against cheap wool from Australia and South America, manufacturers in this country are entitled to no protection from the cheap fabrics manufactured from that wool in England or Germany. If producers of pig iron and steel rails and plates are to be granted free coal and ore they must also concede to their patrons the right to buy egg tools, locomotives, steel nails, rolled iron, steel plates, nails and all kinds of machinery abroad. If sugar refiners are permitted to import raw sugar without the payment of an import tax they must not complain if all sugar is put upon the free list. There is not a manufacturer in the United States to-day who is enjoying the benefit of protection upon his manufactured wares who is willing to give that protection up. It is only an effort on the part of grasping and miserly mill owners to secure another selfish advantage without sacrificing anything now possessed. But they do not stop to count the ultimate cost.

The demand for free raw material is now the mainstay of the sick and disguised free trade statesman. In it he sees the one remaining chance to create discord among the American people. It serves well for a rallying cry for the scattered and disreputable free-traders. It creates a hope in the breasts of the leaders that "free raw materials" will have sufficient fascination to win their free-trade banners, upon which the motto is inscribed, enough voters to enable them to do successful battle with the friends of protection in the next great political campaign. Coming from the manufacturers, the demand for free raw material is hailed with delight by the ultra free-traders. It just unites them, because they are not so slow to recognize its full meaning. Italy serves as a bait to draw others into their ranks. Because of its ambiguity it can be made to serve as an attraction for many classes of voters. So long as he is not called upon for particulars our self-styled tariff reformer goes on handsomely. But force him to name those materials he would include in the proposed exemption from duty, and it will be found that his logic, followed to its legitimate sequence, lands at absolute free-trade in nearly every article competing with the products of domestic manufacturers. In the iron industry not an article short of the very highest product would escape, while in the dry goods trade only ready-made garments would be exempted from the list of free-trade articles. In the entire range of manufactured products there are but few that do not become the base, or the "raw material," of some more advanced industry. In the case of clothing, the cloth is the raw material of the tailor, wool of weaver, and corn and grass of the wool-grower. In iron, ore and coal come to the smelter, pig iron to the maker of bars, and these in turn to the makers of cutlery, tools and machinery—many manufactured articles such as nails, hinges, gas and water pipe, etc., are "raw materials" for workers in other industries.

The cry for free "raw materials" is a free-trade drag net, of which the people at large should beware. It will be set in vain for the intelligent voter, but many a weak-minded creature will no doubt walk unperceptibly into its meshes.

CALIFORNIA pugilistic stock is on the rise, with our last heavy-weight, Joe McAllister, spelling for a go at either Slavin, Kilrain or Peter Jackson—the latter preferred—or not at all avers to meeting Sullivan, and on Monday night another equally good man, Jim Corbett, though lighter by about thirty pounds than McAllister, based Kilrain in a six-round mill at New Orleans. A furious fight between Corbett and Kilrain will probably be the result of their recent meeting, and then a meeting will probably be arranged between the winner and McAllister. Jackson and Slavin are both trying to get a match with Sullivan, although offered a \$5000 purse for a match with McAllister.

The latest combination in railway circles is that of the Northern Pacific with the Baltimore & Ohio, making a through line from ocean to ocean. What Fresno people are most interested in now is a combination that will give the Union Pacific and Northwestern and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe systems terminal facilities on San Francisco Bay on even terms with the Southern Pacific, with lines of each system touching this city.

When will Manager Towne have the railroad reservation in this city properly graded? When a civil line approaches Fresno, perhaps.

Steady Progress

Has characterized Hood's Sarsaparilla since it was placed before the public. Wherever introduced, its sales have grown from year to year, until now it is the most popular and most successful medicine offered. Any druggist will confirm this statement. The secret of this success lies in the fact that Hood's Sarsaparilla is a medicine of merit. It does exactly accomplish all that is claimed for it, and when given a fair trial, is reasonably certain to be of benefit.

Positive Statements. "Since Hood's Sarsaparilla has been in my hands for sale I have had frequent and unswerving testimonials in its favor. Although carrying this preparation for less than one year, my sales have been greater than of any similar preparation, and the testimonials in its favor are at once positive and unusually noticeable." A. W. Wenzel, Hamilton, Cal.

Sells On Its Merits. "My boys say, 'Papa, why don't you buy more of Hood's Sarsaparilla at its own price, we are always short.' It sells on its own merits." F. West, Fresno, Cal. (Hood's Sarsaparilla is sold by all druggists.)

Hood's Sarsaparilla Sold by druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Prepared by Dr. J. C. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar

IN A QUANDARY.

Rare Complications in a Suit For Slander.

MR. HANSEN'S QUEER POSITION.

He is in an Equally Bad Boat
Whether He Testifies for or
Against His Wife.

From Daily of Wednesday.
Jens Hansen is in a peculiar predicament. He and his wife, Christiana, are defendants in a suit for \$10,000 damages for slander preferred by Carrie Hansen, a maiden lady, who, although of the same name, is not a relative of the defendants.

Miss Carrie alleges in her complaint, filed yesterday, that Mrs. Hansen circulated reports reflecting on her chastity; that Mrs. Hansen had said, also, that she had caught her husband and Miss Carrie in a compromising situation, and that the husband had blacked Mrs. Hansen's eye on that account.

A CO-DEFENDANT.
Hansen is joined with his wife as a co-defendant, a husband under the law being responsible for the damage done by his wife's tongue.

This suit places Mr. Hansen in a very ticklish position, and by the time he gets through with it he will be very familiar with the definition of the word "quandary." His position is best illustrated by the fact of the evidence that exculpates a little boy. The afflicted lady went to the bank of the river with an offering of two fat chickens, with which to appease the monster, and begged him to let her back his son. It is understood for the purposes of the story that the boy had been swallowed whole and that he was at that moment quietly listening in the crocodile's stomach to the dialogue.

A CONUNDRUM.
To the appeal of the father the San Juan court yesterday began its inquiry by asking a question.

"Are you good at conundrums?"
"Yes," responded the afflicted parent.

"I'm good at anything if you will only give me back my child."

"Then answer my question, and if you answer it truly I will give up your boy; tell me this thing; do I intend to give him up or do I intend to keep him?"

If you give him up, the father, for he happened to be a member of the Egyptian Nationalities Club, and he saw at once that the voracious reptile had put him into a quandary. So he resolved to employ a lawyer.

AN ANSWER.
The court permitted me to ask you a question?" and he replied:

"Certainly," replied the father, "ten thousand if you wish. Always enjoy a little discussion after lunch and I'm always open to conviction." Saying which he smiled at an angle of ninety degrees.

"If I should say," began the afflicted parent, "that you intended to return me my boy, would you return me my boy, of course, would you return me my boy?"

"Of course," replied the crocodile, yawning, "if such was my intention."

"And," pursued the father, "if such was not your intention you'd keep him?"

"I need," was the laconic answer.

"Now what I should say that you intended to keep him?" suggested the bereaved parent.

"There would be a volume of truth in that remark," replied the reptile.

"Then," said the father, "I have given you the fullest answer. Now return to me my boy."

"Your boy is not entirely full," observed the crocodile, with a big tear in each eye.

"Oh, I intend to keep him," said the father, "but here is where I am also in a quandary. If I comply with my agreement and give him up that would destroy the truth of my answer, and, therefore, I should not give him up. However, as I observe that you are very much up about it, I'll take the matter under advisement, and by the time that I have digested the boy and the problem I may reverse my decision. You know that I am not a crocodile, but I am from a poor crocodile than you would from the Supreme Court." Saying which he crawled back into the luxurious cocoon from which he had emerged.

HANSEN'S PICKLE.
Mr. Hansen, of course, knows whether his wife's accusation against Carrie and himself is true or not, but he can't expect the court and the jury to believe him. He is in a quandary, and he is in a quandary.

Mr. Hansen appears to be seeking in a very bad way for a lawyer.

Nurse and Short are attorneys for the plaintiff.

BASEBALL.
The Prospects Very Favorable for a Club in Fresno.

A Republican reporter last evening met Mr. Young, who is in the city for the purpose of putting a first-class club in Fresno as well as to organize the Central California Baseball League. During the rather lengthy interview, Mr. Young talked very freely of his past experience in baseball, both in the East and in California, as well as of the outlook in general, and Fresno and Central California in particular.

"How long have you been connected with baseball?" was asked.

"Ten years in all—four as a professional player and six as an umpire in almost all the Eastern leagues and associations. I began my career as umpire in the Northwestern League in 1883. It was a live league and turned out such players as Clarkson, Foutz, Carstairs, Gansell, Baldwin, Cook, etc. In 1885 I was called to the Southern League, at the time of which I was umpire for W. Grady, for years one of the leading men in the West. In 1886 I was promoted to the American Association, but had a hard time of it with Conkley, Laban, etc., hence I resigned, being again called to the Southern League in 1887. I was with the Western League, in 1888 with the Tri-State and International Leagues as umpire, and later on managed the Stockton club before it was turned over to Mr. Harris."

A GOOD FIELD.
"From what I already knew and learned since I came here, baseball has never been conducted in Fresno on a basis that could possibly make it successful. I have seen many promising baseball towns in the West, but Fresno, however, appears to be a splendid field for a good club and, but for its location would be a more profitable member of the California League than either Stockton or Sacramento. I am delighted with the city in every way that one."

"If the business men, citizens and the various interests, that materially profit by a fine club, will give reasonable financial assistance, nothing will be easier."

Stockton raised \$200 in a week for baseball. The advantages of having a club are many. Besides being a most exciting and pleasing sport, it has a vast influence on business. Railroads, hotels, restaurants, cigar stands, livery stables and other lesser interests profit largely, while the advertising Fresno would receive all over the state, and to some extent in the East, would be very considerable. But many business men fail to appreciate this, or are apt to under estimate its importance."

Has a meeting of the league been called?

"I expect that the Central California League will be organized here March 1st. Playing will begin a month later. In a few days I can tell you whether Fresno is ready for a League Club. In the meantime I shall call on the business men and others and see what can be raised by subscription."

NOT IN THE COMBINE.
The Tribune Register is With the People for Irrigation.

The Sanger Herald says that all the large land-owners oppose the proposed irrigation district. It might have added that all the riparian claimants, all the water monopolists and all the purchaseable newspapers in the county are also opposing the district.—Fresno Record.

HIGHBINDER TIM.

The Murderer Captured by Bartlett and Wofford.

HE WAS ARMED TO THE TEETH.

An Ineffective Attempt by the Chinese
Masons to Get Him Out on a
Writ of Habeas Corpus.

From the Daily of Wednesday.
Tim Tim, the Chinese murderer, was shadowed all day yesterday by Chinese friends of the man who had murdered in San Francisco last July, and when he was finally located in the afternoon in a lottery game, Deputy Constables Wofford and Bartlett, not being able to effect an entrance, lay in wait for him outside.

MR. TIM'S WEAPONS.
He had not taken more than a few steps out of the doorway of the gambling house before the officers were at his side. As soon as he saw them he placed his hands up in the air, and a .44-caliber revolver, navy size, and a knife, about a foot long, but the officers were too quick for him and a pair of handcuffs were slipped over his wrists in a twinkling.

THE CHINESE MASONRY.
Immediately there ensued a great hubbub in Chinatown. The gamblers and opium fiends swarmed out of every doorway and jostled incessantly as the officers pushed their prisoner across the street to the police station.

THE CHINESE MASONRY.
The prisoner was taken to the police station and lodged in the cell. He was armed to the teeth with a .44-caliber revolver, navy size, and a knife, about a foot long, but the officers were too quick for him and a pair of handcuffs were slipped over his wrists in a twinkling.

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HIGHBINDER TIM.

The Murderer Captured by Bartlett and Wofford.

HE WAS ARMED TO THE TEETH.

An Ineffective Attempt by the Chinese
Masons to Get Him Out on a
Writ of Habeas Corpus.

From the Daily of Wednesday.
Tim Tim, the Chinese murderer, was shadowed all day yesterday by Chinese friends of the man who had murdered in San Francisco last July, and when he was finally located in the afternoon in a lottery game, Deputy Constables Wofford and Bartlett, not being able to effect an entrance, lay in wait for him outside.

MR. TIM'S WEAPONS.
He had not taken more than a few steps out of the doorway of the gambling house before the officers were at his side. As soon as he saw them he placed his hands up in the air, and a .44-caliber revolver, navy size, and a knife, about a foot long, but the officers were too quick for him and a pair of handcuffs were slipped over his wrists in a twinkling.

THE CHINESE MASONRY.
Immediately there ensued a great hubbub in Chinatown. The gamblers and opium fiends swarmed out of every doorway and jostled incessantly as the officers pushed their prisoner across the street to the police station.

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BURNETTE G. HASKELL.

An Interesting Speech by the Great Nationalist.

HOW THE FARMER IS ROBBED.

He Receives Only One-Third of the
Value of His Produce, as Shown
by the Tenth Census.

From the Daily of Tuesday.
Nearly a thousand people, despite the rain and cold, gathered on Sunday afternoon at Biggs Theater to hear Burnette G. Haskell, the San Francisco lawyer, expound the doctrines of Nationalism.

The large audience was a surprise, but the small speaker was a greater. People had expected a larger and an older man, perhaps, and, somewhat of a "crank."

They found a small-sized, but keen-eyed and clear-headed attorney, who dealt with plain facts from a plain and business-like standpoint.

Mr. Haskell arose to no oratorical effects, but his earnestness was well marked to a quiet enthusiasm, that took the house and evoked repeated and continued bursts of applause. His platform appearance was simple and unadorned, and he broke the ice by saying he had simply come down for a little talk of vital interest to every good citizen.

MR. HASKELL'S LECTURE.
"Mark Twain pointed out in a recent number of Harper's Magazine," he said, "that the things that are going to make the world a better place are the things that are going to make it a worse place."

The amended ordinance reads as follows: "An amendment to ordinance 61, regulating the fees of the city engineer for running lines and setting the necessary stakes for the grades and curbs, including profiles, cross-sections, minutes and certificates of records, at the rate of 4 cents per lineal foot of the work, where the same is over 100 feet."

The amended ordinance, under the rules, was laid over for a week.

THE PETITION OF DOUGLAS LEAVY.
The petition of Douglas Leavy, laid over from the previous meeting, for a license to conduct a saloon business at 1119 J street was granted.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS.
C. C. Hobson presented a petition, in which he stated that he had all the signs of the property owners on block 10, and asked that he be granted permission to connect with the main sewer. The petition was granted upon Mr. Hobson's filing a copy of the contract he had made with the property owner, and upon paying a \$250 bond that the work would be done according to the specifications.

ACTION ON THE PETITION OF J. T. SHANKLIN.
Action on the petition of J. T. Shanklin and other property owners for a change of grade on Fresno street, between E and Q streets, and certain portions of P and Q streets, was deferred one week.

A petition was read from property owners asking for permission to construct a board sidewalk on Fresno street, between E and Q streets, and certain portions of P and Q streets, was deferred one week.

A communication was read from the Street Superintendent, calling attention to sewer pipes and elsewhere, and suggesting that a vacant lot be rented on which to store the pipes. The communication was referred to the Sewer Commissioner.

